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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

RIVER-FLEET OPERATION CRITICIZED

OB' RIVER FLEET LAGS IN SEASON START -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 95, 15 May 49

During the current navigation season, the Ob' River Fleet is scheduled to haul 100,000 tons of freight above plan. Present operations indicate, however, that the steamship line is not meeting its schedules. In 1948, the line and its chief, Timofeyev, were criticized for the poor operation of its passenger service, and were ordered by the Ministry of the River Fleet to improve passenger transport. At least 50 percent of the passenger ships are still not operating on schedule. Almost the entire passenger fleet has been used to haul cargoes for the spring sowing campaign although the fleet has been provided with a number of fast Diesel cargo ships sufficient to meet these needs.

The tug fleet has also been operating unsatisfactorily, which particularly affects the transport of timber. Conditions in the lower stretches of the steamship line's routes are particularly poor. Handling of barges takes from 8 to 10 days instead of the standard 2 days at the floating docks in Krasny Yar, Polovinka, Ust'-Chulym, Zaigalevo, Shokuchiy Mys, and Novo-Yugino. Timber workers are organized in only one shift and nearly one half of the docks are not being used. Loading at "Zagotzerno" wharves is extremely slow, as it was in 1948.

COAL MOVEMENT THROUGH ROSTOV HINDERED -- Pravda, No 170, 19 Jun 49

In a letter to Pravda, a group of workers at the river port of Rostov complain that their task of transferring coal sent by river from the mines of the Krasnodonets Mine Administration to the railroad for shipment to Krasnodar Kray, Stavropol' Kray, and other areas of the North Caucasus is being hindered by the failure of the North Caucasus Railroad System to furnish a sufficient number of railroad cars.

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RIVER FLEET OPERATIONS LAG -- Rechnoy Transport, No 49, 21 Jun 49

As of 20 June, 63.3 percent of the June plan should have been completed by the Ministry of River Fleet. However, as of that date, only 55.1 percent of the plan in tons and 51.3 percent of the plan in ton-kilometers had been completed. The work of the river fleet as a whole lagged 1½ days, with wheat and coal transporting one day behind schedule, timber and firewood transporting in ships 1½ days behind, transport of salt 2 days behind, and petroleum and raft transporting 3 days behind. The Main Administration of Southern River Fleet operated ahead of schedule only for tons. The Main Administration of the Far Eastern River Fleet lagged more seriously than others; only the East Siberian Steamship Fleet is fulfilling the plan for tons according to schedule. The Yenisey Fleet is fulfilling its plan.

The Moskova-Oka, Pechora, Don, Vyatka, Northwestern, Verkhne-Irtysh, Amur, and Central Asia fleets operated best in June.

As formerly, towing of rafts in the Northern and Kama basins lagged seriously.

EASTERN RIVER FLEET TO REACH 1950 TRANSPORT LEVEL -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 92, 11 May 49

M. N. Chebotarev, Vice-Minister of the River Fleet USSR and chief of the Main Administration of River Transport of the Eastern Regions, reports that the recent pledge of eastern river-fleet workers means that the workers on the Irtysh, Ob', Angara, Selenga, Yenisey, Amur, and Lena will complete the Five-Year Plan in 4 years in regard to freight hauling. Nonstop operation of the fleet is being adopted more extensively in all eastern river basins. Service for ships en route is being organized in Tara, Tobol'sk, Yeniseysk, Igarka, and other centers. New lines, using high-speed Diesel cargo ships, are being opened, and new passenger lines, connecting the river cities of Siberia and the East with agricultural regions, have begun to operate. Mechanization is being extended in docks and port facilities.

During the past winter, repair workers carried out twice as much capital repair work on ships than in 1947 - 1948.

STEAMSHIP LINE ANNOUNCES ROUTES -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 92, 11 May 49

The West Siberian Steamship Line announces to all Novosibirsk citizens that it has opened regular freight and passenger service on the following routes: Novosibirsk-Barnaul-Biysk, Novosibirsk-Kamen', Novosibirsk-Tomsk-Aleksandrovo, Novosibirsk-Tomsk-Kargasok, Novosibirsk -- Mishne-Vartovskoye, Tomsk-Kolpashevo, and Tomsk-Tegul'det (on the Chulym River). Local suburban lines have been organized in Biysk, Barnaul, Novosibirsk, Tomsk, and Kolpashevo. All ships are operated on schedules. Ships and docks are equipped with radio facilities. Waiting rooms have information bureaus, storage rooms for hand-carried baggage, and rooms for mothers and children.

DON RIVER FLEET REINFORCED -- Rechnoy Transport, No 49, 21 Jun 49

During the current navigation season the Don River Fleet is being reinforced by some 400-horsepower steamships (built in the "Leninskaya kuznitsa" Plant), propeller-driven steamships and self-propelled barges, and 20 non-power-driven ships, of which some are tankers. The fleet is also getting two pump dredges with a capacity of 150 cubic meters per hour.

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